

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 SCA-01 DPW-01 AID-20

AGR-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /222 W

----- 026806

R 141122Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6461

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AORG (UNHCR), VS, LA, CB

SUBJECT: RELIEF ASSISTANCE INDOCHINA - UNHCR

REF: GENEVA 3109

1. DEPUTY UNHCR MACE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO SOUTH VIETNAM WHERE HE REVIEWED WITH GVN AUTHORITIES PROBLEM OF REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE UNHCR PROGRAMMING IN AREA. MISOFF MET WITH MACE JUNE 12 AND GLEANED FROM HIM FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. GVN HAS NOW OFFICIALLY REQUESTED UNHCR TO ASSIST ON "GOOD OFFICES" BASIS THE DISPLACED PERSONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. IN MAKING ITS REQUEST, THE GVN REFERRED TO ROLE UNHCR HAS PLAYED DURING RECENT YEARS IN SUB-CONTINENT, SUDAN, CHILE, ETC., WHICH HAD BEEN DESCRIBED BY UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS "ESSENTIAL HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS FOR WHICH UNHCR HAS PARTICULAR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE". MORE SPECIFICALLY, GVN REQUESTED UNHCR TO

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ASSIST DURING BALANCE 1974 AND 1975 IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF SOME

900,000 VIETNAMESE DISPLACED PERSONS ON ABANDONED OR GOVERNMENT-OWNED VIRGIN LAND AT COST ABOUT \$4 MILLION. WHILE PRINCIPAL EFFORTS WOULD INITIALLY BE DIRECTED TO THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE WOULD GENERALLY BE REQUIRED FOR THE OVERALL NEEDS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

3. ENVISAGED PROJECT WOULD ENTAIL 140 AGRICULTURAL SITES IN WHICH EACH DISPLACED PERSON FAMILY WOULD BE PROVIDED A TRACT OF LAND (APPROXIMATELY ONE ACRE) AND THE NECESSARY SEEDS, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT. MOREOVER, EACH RESETTLEMENT SITE WOULD HAVE ITS OWN MEDICAL CLINIC, MARKET, SCHOOL AND DAY-CARE CENTER. ACCORDING MACE, THIS WOULD BE PART OF BROAD RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN SVN FOR WHICH GVN ALREADY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. MACE REPORTED THAT GVN'S REQUEST WILL RECEIVE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY UNHCR IN EARLY FUTURE AND THAT HE (MACE) WILL ENCOURAGE FAVORABLE RESPONSE. HOWEVER, MACE EXPLAINED THAT UNHCR'S ULTIMATE DECISION WILL DEPEND ON POSSIBILITY OF COMPARABLE UNHCR PROGRAMMING IN NORTH VIETNAM. HCR'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT RIZVI (PAKISTAN NATIONAL) IS PRESENTLY IN HANOI DISCUSSING MATTER WITH DRVN AUTHORITIES. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, UNHCR HAS GREEN LIGHT FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO UNDERTAKE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FOR BENEFIT VICTIMS OF CONFLICT SOUTHEAST ASIA PROVIDING PROGRAM CAN BE EVEN-HANDED IN NORTH AND SOUTH.

5. MISSION WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. DALE

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